United Nations A/HRC/31/NGO/83

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Human Rights Council
Thirty-first session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Society Studies Centre (MADA ssc), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[14 February 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.16-02413(E)

Please recycle

The Negative Impacts of Unilateral Coercive measures on the enjoyment of the International Covenants 1966

The Society Studies Centre (SSCmada) seizes the opportunity of the fiftieth anniversary of the two covenants adopted in 1966 i.e. the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), to express its deep concern on the escalation of the big challenges which are still hindering and restricting enjoying the rights included in the two covenants.

On top of those challenges is the continuation of imposing and annual renewal of the unilateral coercive measures (sanctions) practiced by some nations against other nation through executive directives and legislations. More worrying is the expansion in imposing those measures against a country through including other states which support the imposing state, a matter that makes those sanctions comprehensive to be practices by several states. This is clear in the case of Sudan as the sanctions are imposed on it since the early ninetieth of last century as are renewed annually, while dealing with the communities' requirements should adapt human resolutions to contribute in its capacity-building to enable it meet its demands in development and not through imposing more sanctions.

The right to development guarantees benefiting from the natural resources and eliminating poverty and hunger, and this could not be achieved unless the obstacles are removed. The biggest obstacle is the continuation of imposing those measures. The sanctions affected directly on enjoying the economic, social and political rights besides the right to development which are included in the two International Covenants. It affected the development, economic and social infrastructure and that is clear in the lack of sufficient resources to meet those rights a matter that leads to the increase of unemployment and inflation rates.

Sudan was forbidden from benefiting from the finance and assistance of the international funds or dealing with the international industrial companies. The sanctions also deprived Sudan from benefiting from the technology in all aspects and that affected negatively on the Sudanese industries.

To sum it up we can determine the negative impacts in the following:

1. The limitation of Sudan ability to deal internationally freely and without restrictions or conditions a matter that reduces the margin of moves and also reduces the available options in general.
2. Depriving of international funding from the international monitory funds and other international financial institutions.
3. Crippling Sudan's ability to benefit from the Heavily indebted countries initiative or restructuring the debts with the international debtors.
4. Limitation the possibility of benefiting from the latest technology in developing the Sudanese economic sectors especially transportation, agricultural, health, oil and information technology sectors.
5. Banning the international banks and institutions and intimidating those institutions from entering into financial transactions with the Sudanese banking system.
6. Putting more burdens on the Sudanese working abroad in making their personal financial transactions with the Sudanese banks.

The Society Studies Centre would like to express its appreciation to the efforts and measures taken by the Human Rights Council in the recent few years against the unilateral coercive measures , especially the efforts of the HRC Advisory committee on the impact of the unilateral coercive measures on human rights , in regard to the negative impacts on fundamental rights and rights to development.

The Society Studies Centre strongly support the outcome of those sessions as it considered the said measures as violation to the international law and the international human rights law and could be condemned by the General Assembly. We also laud the decision that condemned those coercive measures and stipulated appointing a special rapportuer to monitor the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on human rights.

The Centre would like to draw the attention of the High Level Committee of the fiftieth anniversary of the two covenants to consider that the negative impacts of the unilateral coercive measures represent the biggest obstacle for enjoying the rights included in the two covenants.

In this regard we call for:

First: Preparing an international convention that bans the unilateral coercive measures and banning the stats to impose unilateral sanctions that negatively affects the developmental activities and weakens the capabilities of active and important sectors. The convention should stipulate the establishment of an international mechanism to follow-up the implementation of the convention and take the necessary measures to end such sanctions.

Second: We Recommends extending the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur to monitor the negative impacts of the unilateral and coercive measures and to subject the end of the mandate to the end of practicing those unilateral and coercive measures.
Third: Urging the international community to boost, encourage and support the developing sates in peace building and development to upgrade the aspirations of its people through enjoying their complete rights, besides compensating the victims of those sanctions.
Last: We urge the Human Rights Council and the peace loving nations to endeavour to bring an end to those unfair sanction against the Sudanese nations which threatens its development prosperity.

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Human Rights Council
Thirty-first session
Agenda item 7
Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

Written statement* submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Please recycle

OPT: Is There an End to the Endless Tragedy

Despite the numerous calls by the majority of the States in the international community to draw the world attention to the longstanding human rights violations in OPT, it seems as if some world powers refuse to attend the General Debate Item 7.

The United States strongly and unequivocally opposes the very existence of Agenda Item 7, affirming that the country stands with Israel at the United Nations. It seems as if the US and Israel are the only countries in the world, for whom Israel operations in OPT is justified. This is while, Israel policies in OPT is repeatedly criticized by the UN, the Human Rights Council, representatives of the States and members of the civil society.

As the UN resolutions against Israel operations are being adopted, violation of human rights in OPT continues. As the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, reiterated on 27 January 2016, Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, keep to expand and expand, disappointing the hopes of all young Palestinians in the face of nearly 50 years of Israeli occupation[1].

As it has been the cased for the past 50 years, UN is criticizing Israel operations in OPT. On February, 11, 2016, the U.N. human rights investigator for Gaza and the West Bank called on Israel on to investigate the excessive force used by Israeli security forces against Palestinians and to prosecute perpetrators. He also urged the Israeli authorities to charge or release all Palestinian prisoners being held under lengthy administrative detention, including children[2].

Killings, arrests and detention of Palestinians including the minors continue. Palestinian children are paying a huge price for the longstanding conflicts. Getting involved in war and protests, the children are far from the joys of childhood and frequently arrested by Israel. In February 2016, 450 Palestinian children were held in Israeli jails and according to the reports, three out of four children experience physical violence during their arrest, transfer or interrogation. In addition, according to Israeli officials from October 2015 to January 2016 at least 157 Palestinians have been killed in OPT.[3]

Alongside the killings, arrests, and despite the UN warnings, destruction of Palestinian structures continues. On February 8, 2016, the EU deplored the expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, regretting that the operations will threaten the peace process between Israel and Palestine[4]. The EU spokesperson called on Israeli authorities to reverse the decision that has demolished several Palestinian residential structures in the area and to halt more demolitions.

The fact that Gaza has been under siege for years is another serious cause of depriving Palestinians of their human rights. U.N. experts believe that Israel's blockade of Gaza is illegal because subjects Gazans to collective punishment in "flagrant contravention of international human rights and humanitarian law." [5] Lack of access to basic supplies such as food and medicine has multiplies the complications of life for Gazan people. The patients, including the ones suffering from cancer, are in serious risks because of their lack of access to medicine and adequate medical care.
Following the Gaza siege which started in 2007 Palestinians are in need of basic things including food and medicine, they have been highly dependent on underground tunnels to import their most basic supplies. Bur recently, the Israel Prime Minister has put the destruction of Gaza Tunnels a top priority while they are only means for Gaza people to meet their basic needs. The deterioration of Gaza situation is to the point that UN has warned the Gaza will be uninhabitable by 2020[6].

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[1] . http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=53110#.Vry7KNKqqko
[2] . http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKCN0VK1O3
[3] . http://forward.com/news/breaking-news/333324/un-official-accuses-israel-of-excessive-force-in-occupation/
[4] . http://www.enpi-info.eu/medportal/news/latest/43678/Palestine:--EU-concerned-about-expansion-of-Israeli-settlement
[5] . http://www.reuters.com/article/us-un-gaza-rights-idUSTRE78C59R20110913
[6] . http://time.com/4019509/gaza-uninhabitable-unctad/

During the Israel-Gaza war in 2014, 74% of Gaza homes were destroyed and they have not rebuilt yet. In February 2016, more than 16,000 families, amounting to approximately 90,000 people, who lost their homes in the War, remain displaced or homeless[7].

Echoing the UN Secretary Generals concerns for the long standing violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in OPT, including the vast displacement of people, the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence ODVV calls on Israel officials to abide by their international commitments.

Considering the vast scale of human right violations in OPT, (ODVV) urges the human rights council to discourage Israel from operations – including settlements expansions - that jeopardize the negotiations and peace process in the region.

Our Organization would also like to echo the Secretary-General's concerns on OPT, who believes that Palestinians are frustrated of the half century statements and resolutions condemning violations of their rights while there are no changes in the situation on the ground.

Since the continuation of conflicts in OPT will endanger the security of all sides, ODVV urges Israel allies to encourage Israel to recognize Palestinian.

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7. http://www.salon.com/2016/02/09/74_of_gaza_homes_destroyed_by_israel_in_summer_2014_war_have_not_been_rebuilt_as_violent_repression_escalates/

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Human Rights Council
Thirty-first session
Agenda item 4
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the International Federation of Liberal Youth, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[14 February 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Please recycle

On the humanitarian crisis and the situation developing in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

In recent months the grave political situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (hereinafter referred to as Venezuela) tends to worsen. Although, the results of parliamentary elections held in Venezuela on December 6, 2015 represented an opportunity for change, the political, economic and social situation is deteriorating very rapidly and there are no signs of the government intending to rectify. As a result, the Venezuelan people have only seen a decline in quality of life.

Shortages of basic food and medicine is alarming; the health system is in the worst condition and there is no treatment even for chronic diseases. Added to this, rates of dead human beings are increasing due to the lack of medical care.

Insecurity in Venezuela have reached record levels. Caracas, the capital, is the most violent city in the world - during 2015 there were 27,000 killed people as a result of insecurity and violence.

The political landscape is increasingly difficult in a time when there are still political prisoners, persecution, torture and systematic human rights violation. This is in addition to the unstable political system that makes it unpredictable what will happen in the coming months. All this is compounded by the fall in oil prices, which seems to mean the intensification of the crisis in Venezuela with no visible solution in the short-term.

In IFLRY we have been monitoring the situation since last October, and within our last Executive Committee held in Dominican Republic, we approved a resolution that will be discussed at our next General Assembly in April.

This resolution expresses our concern about the crisis in Venezuela and exhorted to different organizations and individuals to take action to prevent the situation from worsening. However, despite this, the Federation is concerned about the rapid deterioration of the minimum conditions that any country should have to move forward.

In 2012, Venezuela was elected as a member of the Council of Human Rights of the United Nations and was re-elected in 2015. As such, the country has a strong obligation to ensure the basic human rights of its citizens, an issue that the current situation makes difficult to verify.

In conclusion, the International Federation of Liberal Youth, calls upon member and observer States at the Human Rights Council to:

•Urge the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report regularly and publicly on the human rights situation in the country, through the various Special Rapporteurs in the areas of:

•Extreme Poverty and Human Rights
•Right to Food
•Freedom of Opinion and Expression
•Human Rights Defenders
•Independence of Judges and Lawyers
•International Solidarity
•Torture

•Urge to the World Health Organization to verify the state of the Venezuelan health system and shortages of medicines, in order to recommend solutions to this serious problem.

•Urge the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to verify the actual situation of food shortages in Venezuela.

•To request Venezuela, as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, to present facts and data on the current situation on human rights.

•Check the status of political prisoners and persecuted, disabled politicians and call again for their immediate release and removal of these actions.

•Taking into account the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, to supplement the information on the situation in Venezuela and possible solutions, understanding the responsibility of Venezuela as a member of the Inter-American System.

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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by Reporters Sans Frontiers International - Reporters Without Borders International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[14 February 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.16-02418(E)

Please recycle

A QUESTION OF CREDIBILITY

Torture and mistreatment are inflicted in many countries throughout the world on journalists, bloggers, whistleblowers and others who exercise their legitimate and internationally recognized right to freedom of expression and information. Some of these countries, Members of the Council, are acting in flagrant violation of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/251 which requires that they "*uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights*".

In **Saudi Arabia**, Raef Badawi, co-founder of the *Liberal Saudi Network* blog, has been jailed since June 2012 for "*insulting Islam*" and was sentenced in May 2014 to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes. His blog simply aimed to encourage a public debate and promote humanistic ideas centred on religious tolerance and human rights. The first public flogging session was held on 9 January 2015. After the Supreme Court in Riyadh upheld this cruel, inhuman and degrading sentence on 7 June 2015, the flogging sessions could resume at any time.

Subjecting persons who exercise their right to freedom of expression to such an appalling punishment as 1,000 lashes in public is completely contrary to the Human Rights Council's resolutions on freedom of expression and on corporal punishment, and to Saudi Arabia's international obligations. Saudi Arabia is a party to the 1984 Convention against Torture, which imposes an absolute prohibition on inhuman treatment such as flogging.

The **United Arab Emirates** also tortures and mistreats journalists and those who exercise their right to freedom of expression and information. In Abu Dhabi, Waleed Al Shehhi, a citizen-journalist who has been named an "information hero" by RSF, was arrested in May 2013 and was sentenced the following November to two years in prison for tweeting about the torture and mistreatment of detainees in the country. He was himself mistreated and tortured during his detention.

Journalists are the victims of torture in **Cuba** as well. Angel Santiesteban-Prats, a writer and blogger who received a five-year jail sentence on 8 December 2012 after a hasty trial on trumped-up charges, was repeatedly subjected to acts of mistreatment and torture. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, after being informed of the details of the threats, mistreatment and psychological torture to which he had been subjected, formally asked the Cuban government on 26 September 2014 to guarantee his safety.

In **Burundi**, Esdras Ndikumana, the correspondent of *RFI* and *AFP*, was beaten and tortured after arrest in Bujumbura on 2 August 2015. He was photographing the site of a shooting attack when he was arrested and taken to the headquarters of the National Intelligence Service. There he was forced to the ground and every part of his body was beaten. After two hours of this torture, his assailants let him go, saying he was an "enemy journalist" and should consider himself "lucky to be still alive."

In **China**, former *Deutsche Welle* correspondent Gao Yu's health deteriorated rapidly after she was jailed on 8 May 2014. As she was subjected to almost daily interrogations designed to get her to confess her "crimes," and was deprived of proper medical treatment despite being seriously ill, the conditions of her detention constituted cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. She's now under temporary house arrest and might go back to jail at any time. Torture is also used in Tibetan prisons. Jigme Gyatso, a Buddhist monk who was arrested for helping to make a documentary about Tibet, was tortured during the seven months he was held in 2008. During the interrogations to which he was subjected after being arrested, his interrogators beat him repeatedly, hanged him by his feet from the ceiling for hours, and kept him tied to the interrogation chair for days.

In **Vietnam**, many bloggers are subjected to preventive detention in camps where officials are allowed to use degrading methods to get them to admit their guilt. The most "stubborn" detainees are put in solitary confinement. Up to four detainees may be held in cells that are often less than four square metres in area. In some cases, there is no access to drinking water. A detainee in solitary is allowed into the yard only once a week for just 15 minutes, and not even that if the authorities are bent on breaking him. They often use fellow inmates to start fights and to beat a targeted detainee. The bloggers Dieu Cay and Ta Phong Tan, the writer Nguyen Xuan Nghia, the priest Nguyen Van Ly and many others have been subjected to this form of pressure.

As the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment said in his report to the Human Rights Council in 2010: "*The combined deprivation and non-fulfilment of (the) existential rights (to food, water, clothing, health care and a minimum of space, hygiene, privacy and security necessary for a humane and dignified existence) amounts to a systematic practice of inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.*"

In the **United Kingdom**, Julian Assange, a whistleblower and founder of the WikiLeaks website, which publishes classified information, has been subjected to arbitrary detention in the Ecuadorian embassy for more than three years. The arbitrary nature of his detention by the British authorities was recognized by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in an opinion released on 5 February 2016. As he is being held in a confined space, without access to free air and medical care, without being able to see his family and to affirm his rights and without knowing how long his detention will continue, this constitutes inhuman and degrading treatment.

Many other countries subject journalists and bloggers to torture and mistreatment.

In **Syria**, the authorities systematically torture journalists who are arrested for disputing the government's propaganda. The cases of the cartoonist Ali Ferzat, the journalist Hanadi Zahlout, the journalist Mansour Omari and the cartoonist Akram Raslan (who died under torture while in detention) are just some of the most emblematic examples of the extreme violence used by the authorities.

In **Eritrea**, journalists are held in cruel and inhuman conditions. Seyyoum Tsehaye, a journalist held for the past 15 years in an unknown location without it being clear whether he is still alive, is just one of many cases. The UN General Assembly nonetheless said in Resolution 68/156 of 2014 that: "*prolonged incommunicado detention or detention in secret places (...) constitute a form of (torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment).*"

In **Iran**, a Tehran revolutionary court sentenced a young documentary filmmaker in October 2015 to six years in prison and 223 lashes on charges of "*insulting Islam*" and "*immoral relations*" because he greeted a woman with a kiss and because he made a documentary about graffiti after the 2009 protest movement.

The General assembly declared in its resolution 68/156 in 2014 that « *solitary confinement (...) may amount to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment* ». In the **United States**, the soldier and whistle blower Bradley Manning, who leaked information about war crimes committed by the US military in Irak, was submitted for 11 months to strict solitary confinement and confined to his cell for twenty-three hours a day. The special rapporteur on torture concluded in 2011 that the lenght and conditions of his detention « *constitute at a minimum cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment in violation of article 16 of the convention against torture. If the effects in regards to pain and suffering inflicted on Manning were more severe, they could constitute torture.* »

Reporters Without Borders recommends

To the Member States of the UNHRC:

- If they have not already done so, ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, of which article 19 guarantees the right to freedom of expression.
- Pardon journalists and bloggers sentenced to cruel, inhuman and degrading punishments for exercising their right to freedom of expression and information or commute their sentences.
- Respect their obligations as Council members, including their obligation to "*uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights*", and put a stop to all forms of torture and mistreatment, including of journalists.
- Remind their peers of their obligations under international law and apply strong and sustained diplomatic pressure to end torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.
- Establish and effectively implement universal jurisdiction-type mechanisms permitting the prosecution in their territory of those responsible for torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, even when committed in a foreign country, by a foreign citizen and on a foreign citizen.

To the HRC:

- To protect the credibility of the Human Rights Council, establish procedures enabling it to expel and/or suspend the voting rights of Member States guilty of flagrant and repeated human rights violations under international law.

To the UNGA:

- In accordance with Article 8 of Resolution 60/251, systematically implement the procedure for suspending the Council membership rights of any Council member that commits gross and systematic violations of human rights, especially acts of torture.

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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Iranian Elite Research Center, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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GE.16-02489(E)

Please recycle

Children and Their Rights

All religions have advised people to peace and reconciliation with each other. Because human nature is incompatible with violence and extremism; No one has pleasant feeling in violence conditions and endure these conditions, even for the heroes of history it has been difficult and unpleasant.
In violence conditions, one of the vulnerable segments of society who needs more care to protect against violence and extremism are children who are exposed to greater risks.
Convention on the Rights of the Child is a basis for the determination of the rights of children and protection of them. However, in each of these countries, there are children who experience violence. Effects and reflections of such violence can continue in all stages of life of these children and affect their health, growth and behavior.

According to the Article 38 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child that states:
1-Member States undertake to in times of armed conflict relates to children, Respect the applicable rules of international humanitarian law and ensure respect for the rules.

2- Member States will take all possible actions to ensure persons who have not attained the age of 15 are not directly participating in hostilities.

3- Member States will avoid the reception of persons who have not attained the age of 15 in their armed forces. At the reception of persons between 15 and 18 years, member States shall endeavor to give priority to those who are older.

4- Member States under obligations under international humanitarian law relating to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, to take all possible actions to ensure Protection and care of children who are vulnerable due to armed conflict.

It is unfortunate that in the 21st century, millions of children in various forms of violence in the world expose to violence. The most obvious manifestation of violence is war and bloodshed and the most innocent Victims of war, are children. War, has a negative impact on children and also destructs Infrastructure to which children are raised.
According to a UNICEF report, during last year nearly 15 million children have been displaced in the wars of the Central African Republic, Iraq, South Sudan, Palestine, Syria and Ukraine and 230 million children around the world live in countries that are at war and violence. The wars in Iraq and Syria after the emergence of terrorist groups; Daesh, led to the involvement of over three million, seven hundred thousand children in Syria and two million seven hundred thousand Iraqi children in violence and extremism.

Nearly 10 thousand children were employed by armed groups in Central Africa and more than 430 children were killed by armed groups that when compared with last year has tripled. In Southern Sudan, 235 million children under age 5 suffer from malnutrition and despite the fact that 750 thousand children were left homeless.

Children in Syria are widely exposed to murder, kidnapping, detention and torture. About three million children for various reasons, including the destruction of schools, flee from war or support their families have been forced to quit school.
According to the UN, 50% to 60% of Syrians who have fled to neighboring countries are deprived of education and schools.
Earlier, the United Nations published a report on the destruction of schools in Syria and the destruction of more than three thousand schools in the country was announced. Many of these children are forced to do hard work to pay for the rest of their family life.
Syrian refugee girls also because of the difficult economic conditions of families in refugee camp are forced to marry with Arab sheiks or men at least 10 years elder.
The Iraq war led to the forced displacement of people and communities affected by conflict and violence, caused that the situation of civilians, especially children, places in critical conditions.
According to available statistics and findings, a large number of children have been killed or injured, or forced to relocate. So now in Iraq, many children live apart from their families.
I like to suggest the following recommendations according to my study and practice of protecting children's rights in armed conflict:

1-Identification of situation through monitoring, reporting and regular assessments This report should include child abuse and molestation to the recruitment of children by armed groups and armies, killing and maiming of children, attacks on schools and hospitals, Denial of humanitarian assistance, sexual and gender-based violence against children, child abduction and actions.
2- Assessment and advice for action against countries and based on reports provided to countries that recruit or use children in armed conflicts.
3- Prohibit all forms of violence against children in all states and countries and evidence based policy enforcement and education programs to prevent violence against children.
4-Encourage and promote non-violent values and awareness rising.
5- Developing and designing the implementation of a systematic effort to gather information and research.

I suggest that governments promote systems of collecting data in order to improve their level of identifying the most vulnerable subgroups.
6-give information to those involved in all levels of policy and planning and led progress towards the goal of preventing violence against children.
7- Countries use national indicators based on internationally agreed standards and ensure data collected and analyzed and published over the time.
8-Insert a national research agenda on violence against children in all work situations to gather knowledge and develop a higher level of programs is necessary.

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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the International Alliance of Women, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Please recycle

BIRTH REGISTRATION,
A Passport to Fundamental Rights

Birth Registration is the right that allows access to all other rights. Education, health care, social services, work, bank account, marriage, voting rights, citizenship, all become difficult when a person is not registered at birth.
Many international declarations and conventions establish the right of every one to be recognized as a person before the law (art 6 Declaration of Human Rights, art. 24.2 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights). Art.7 International Covenant on the rights of the child confirms the right to be registered immediately after birth, the right to a name, the right to a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents. Yet, according to UNICEF, in 2014 about 230 million children under 5 had not been registered.

That means that apart from not having access to the above mentioned fundamental rights, those children are prone to being abducted, sold or trafficked, to be recruited into rebel forces, being forced to marry or treated as a sex slave or being punished as an adult.

There are many reasons why children are not registered: discrimination of mothers, lack of adequate civil registration systems, poverty and lack of education. That is why it is so important that Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, has a target (16.9) that calls for:
'by 2030 provide legal identity for all including birth registration.'
It is in every State's interest to have a civil registration system. Without it the State can not plan for health and education, for food, work and housing for its citizens.

A very important aspect of birth registration is the way it opens to a Nationality.
Especially when children are born to a refugee mother, and the father is absent, or missing or dead, it is important to establish family ties in a birth certificate.

That way, when the child ever goes back to the State of its parents, it will be easier to prove the nationality of that State. This is even more important if the law of that State makes it impossible for a mother to pass on her nationality to her children.

There are 27 States who contrary to art. 9.2 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) have laws that do not allow women to confer their nationality to their children. Among these States are Nepal and Syria, countries that suffer under the consequences of earthquake or internal strife, which leads to female headed families.

A future Human Rights Council resolution on the Rights of the Child should, in the opinion of IAW, refer to the link between Birth Registration, Statelessness and Discrimination against Women.

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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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Please recycle

The Syrian displaced refugees in Kurdistan Iraq region need to be under urgent consideration of the human rights council

For years, residents of the Middle East countries have been the compulsory witnesses of different wars, including regional conflicts, civil wars and terrorist attacks. One of the suffered groups of the consequences of such conflicts is civilians and residents of the cities in the region that the war zones have been expanded into their geographical location. These civilians have been given two options, either to remain in the war zones or being displaced. Each of these choices brings its own toughness in the life of the mentioned people. One of the suffered groups of civil wars is Syrian refugee families who are wandering in a dreadful situation on the streets of Kurdistan Iraq region in Erbil city.

Based on the observations of Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society NGO in December 2015 in the region, especially in Erbil, currently many Syrian refugees are adrift in plight on the streets without the primitive facilities of living. According to these people and the observations, the number of displaced families wandering is numerous. In a case study carried out in December 2015 by the researchers of IAPSRS NGO, only on "Havalan street", one of the streets in Erbil city, 80 Syrian families were recognized and recorded during a two-days mission of identification by walking survey, focus group discussion and observation methods.

The recognized families were living in handmade inappropriate tents on the streets in the city. This community with 390 members was forced to inhibit in deep deprivation with no primitive facilities for life. Many of the residents were ignored in plight of unemployment and deep poverty. Some were even compelled to send their children peddling on the streets. Some of the families were living in too weak nutritional status and their children were suffering from malnutrition. They all had no standard, safe and secure shelter. Their status of hygiene and health were severely unfavorable. The families and their children were settling in deprivation of having warm clothes and heating appliances on the cold weather of the winter. Due to problems caused by cold weather in the winters of the past few years, a considerable number of children of the displaced families have been suffering from diseases; and now they face heavy costs for the treatment which could not be afforded by the refugees.

Although, in respect to the appreciated efforts of Kurdistan Iraq regional government and supports of international organizations some huge camps for IDPs and refugees have been established to settle them; the numerous number of evacuees afflicted of extensive war are exceeded the capacity of the camps. Therefore, so many Syrian refugees have not been able to register in official camps and have been wandering on the streets for more than three years. The mentioned families abandoned their homes in "Halab" and "Deir ez-Zor" cities in Syria. Although, the identities of the observed evacuees have been recorded by UNHCR as refugees; they have received negligible supports by international organizations and were living in the condition of extreme poverty and the consequences which affected their life. Meanwhile, in many cases, the recognized families were involved in distress providing their daily subsistence. As a result, some children and women in these families were begging to make money for their daily food. Due to the current situation of their life, the families were experiencing a sense of frustration and deep despair. The extremely harsh environment they were confronting, were detrimental to their psychological and spiritual status.

Children of these families had no educational support and the majority of them were deprived of education. Among the studied population, 91 out of school children were identified out of 121 children in school age. Based on the observations, obstacles of educational deprivation of the children could be alleviated through financial support and establishment of Arabic-language schools.

Besides, pointed out children were deprived of the rights of happiness and playing because they lived in areas where did not have access to any kinds of recreational facilities and joyful atmosphere. This issue caused mental and emotional trauma among children. Undoubtedly, it will affect their lives in the future.
At the time, to support the human rights of the referring refugees' emergency condition it is required to take the following actions:

1. Kurdistan Iraq regional government as the political sovereignty of the area that the Syrian evacuees settled in, should be demanded to prepare an accurate comprehensive report on the situation and present it to the

Council. For providing the report, it is strongly recommended to benefit the assistance of active NGOs in the region.

2. Relying on the report by Kurdistan Iraq regional government to the Council, the necessary actions should take into considerations immediately in order to accommodate displaced Syrians in the available camps or establish a new camp for them. It should be noted that the establishment of new camps, requires necessary supports by the international community to the regional government. In this regard it is highly emphasized that the experiences of NGOs can come into practice.
3. Due to inappropriate living conditions the of children in the noted group from educational deprivation to inaccessibility of adequate food, clothes and recreational opportunities, irreparable consequences in the future may affect the personal and social life of the children. Therefore, the special attention of the council to this issue is demanded.

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Human Rights Council
Thirty-first session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[15 February 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.16-02492(E)

Please recycle

A proposal to establish mechanisms guaranteeing to lessen the possibility of the formation of extremist groups in the world

The growing phenomenon of extremism in some parts of the world especially in the Middle East and North Africa has brought catastrophic humanitarian crises. In the most tragic incidents the world has been being witnessed frequent revealing of images and videos of beheading by extremists murdering defenseless human. It seems that, if prompt emergency and influential actions by the international community do not happen to stop this growing trend, horrible atrocities will threat the future of our children around the world.

The extremism we are mentioning is the result of a phenomenon comes out of believes lead individuals to the point that easily murder another defenseless and helpless human in systematically rituals just because of having a different opinion. The extremists have no qualms about advertising and informing their crimes on the mass media. Although, several examples of killing innocent people for the sake of an idea have occurred in recent years; some of these incidents have been under the most public attention. For instance, the young Norwegian Anders Behring Breivik shot 69 people on August 2012 because of his extremist ideology. As another tragic occurrence, 7 members of the Taliban force on 16th December 2014 committed a mass assassination, murdering 149 people including 133 schoolchildren, in a school in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Furthermore, according to UN reports in the recent year, "the terrorist group of ISIS and its allies in Iraq have targeted communities of the Kurds, the Yezidis and other ethnic residents in the country in systematically planned attacks." It seems that a deliberate policy to annihilate, suppress and expel these tribes of living in their areas, have been pursued in the recent years by extremists. According to the reports, at least 11 thousand and 600 citizens have been killed in attacks by ISIS terrorist group, in the past year. On 19 March 2015 – A report released by the United Nations human rights office says that "the so-called ISIS in Iraq may have committed genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in its attacks against ethnic and religious groups in the country. The report mentions detailing evidence of executions by shooting, beheading, burning alive and bulldozing. The scale of "systematic and widespread violence" perpetrated by the mentioned group from May to October 2015 was "staggering"."

Undoubtedly, the most heinous types of crimes committed by the extremists are the forms of violent of inhuman beheading or burning captives alive in systematic rituals and widespread coverage of the crime on the mass media. On the videos released by the extremist groups, it is seen innocent victims in handcuffs wearing certain clothes are murdered in front of the cameras in the most nefarious ways. These images and videos are widely publicized on the mass media and the Internet. Unfortunately, we see the violent consequences of extremism have altered its face from a hidden type to an unequivocal repulsive type. It seems that, the bloodshed in the style of some primitive ritual shapes in the new era of human society has been renovated. No doubt, human prudence on this subject endorses that the rituals based on bloodshed and massacre stem from absolute degeneracy of human being to the era of barbarism and savagery. Extremists who commit such acts of violence are usually classified under three categories:

1. Those who think and believe wholeheartedly to the extremism. Sometimes they commit massacres for a sacred purpose. They are trained and brainwashed for such behaviors.
2. The ones, due to years of enduring hardship in extreme poverty and hunger besides lack of proper education, have become accustomed to anti-social behaviors. They with persuading financial offers join the soldiers of extremism. For instance, recently news on sales of suicide attackers in the world has been reported; Soldiers whom their families get paid for the sake of sacrificing themselves as suicide bombers killing defenseless civilians in terrorist attacks. It seems the world deliberately tends to keep some children of human in acute hunger to misuse them on proper times doing massacre as the extremist attackers in exchange for money they are given.
3. Those who affiliate extremist attackers to be gratified by the thrill of their avarice to murder. Partially, we saw that these individuals are originally from some developed countries came to bloodsheds. Such dormant wrath can have a variety of reasons, including the type of education they have been given to the expansion of violent computer games reinforces the spirit of bloodshed among children.

Although, based on international treaties and laws exploiting children in wars is an immoral and illegal action; one of the strategies of the extremists reportedly is to take advantage of absorption and training children from an early age to be compulsory recruited for military actions and terrorism. According to available reports, ISIS and other terrorist groups in Iraq and Syria are enlisting teens as the militias who have been brainwashed. These children have had no rights to choose being compulsory enlisted in such groups; in this regard, defending their rights should be among the top priorities of the council of human right.

The Human Rights Council is hereby urged:

1- The establishment of a constant surveillance structure to receive and investigate observational reports of NGOs on the infringement of promoting extremism on the mass media and public environments. This should be done to determine the precautionary mechanisms controlling and limiting the spread of utilizing systematic means to promote extremism believes in countries of world and on the Internet.
2- It should be appealed by the council to the states to establish an efficient and urgent international mechanism to rescue children exposed to ideological and military trainings by extremists.
3- The council persuades countries to plan for promoting cultural and educational level of children of the world via adding humanitarian simple stories in the contents of school books about the life of great national and international heroes of the world which has been reported by religions and the literature in the history of mankind. The mandate of this program should be aimed to promote world peace and friendship among countries, religions, ethnics, races, minorities to undermine the extremism ideas gradually.
4- Regarding the reports related to sales of suicide attackers, the council is demanded to investigate more serious researches; moreover, the states and the international community should be called on taking serious actions to stop this emerging phenomenon.

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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Please recycle

The alarming upward trend of child addiction and the necessity of taking serious actions on this regard by the governments of the world

For a long time, addiction has been counted as one of the most serious conflicts of human being communities. So many positive actions have been done to mitigate the effects of the issue on the human society. Although, several agencies ranging from police forces of countries to UNODC and from local NGOs to major supporting government agencies are working together to combat the scourge of addiction and drug trafficking; the drug lords and traffickers in all these years have tried to strengthen themselves, become more powerful and updated their business strategies. In the new world, we see that the drug mafia has targeted its inhumane strategies based on seeking profits out of the market of the target group of children. This is a serious crisis threatens entire human society and the future generations. It is necessary to contemplate and implement so applicable oriented mechanisms to restrain the issue.

Many children, living in issue-prone marginalized areas of cities in developing countries or countries which are the destinations of refugees, are confronted with problems due to the conditions of their environment. Among the issues they face, it can be noted that most of them are deprived of education or have abandoned the school. These children have not been trained considerably in life skills and have not been learnt appropriate knowledge to know the consequences of drug consumption. As a result, they are not strongly able to detect the threats of drugs and prevent themselves of getting addicted by falling into the traps of traffickers.

In most marginalized areas it can be seen that drug traffickers recruit mentioned children to provide their gang members for sales and distribution. Victims first fall into the traps of merchants of death, then get used to drugs, becoming addicts and after all will easily be added to the groups of sellers and distributors. It is important to note that recruitment of children in such a process is easier and faster in comparison to an adult with intellectual development; however, the rehabilitation process for a child is much harder. Such an approach is one of the factors of consolidation and expansion of the drug market.

In addition, child victims due to lack of protective trainings, inability in prospecting visions and instantaneous pleasure of drug abuse, are easily prepared to do anything. Among the consequences of the addiction issue which can be added to innocent children's lives, these subjects must be noted: addicted-child victims because of having no jobs and no income may be taken into prostitution or drug trafficking to afford consumption costs. Moreover, they are less inclined to education and learning. After a while, they run away from home and given the lack of adequate protection and effective laws in some communities, they will get more involved by the consequences of abandoning home and the dilemma of homelessness. Eventually, some of them become street children and do robbery attacks to supply their consumption needs.

On the other hand, some of the aforementioned children get addicted to drugs by extremists to being recruited as child soldiers in terrorist attacks. For instance, following the sayings of Mashpee, the rapper artist, he was kidnapped at the age of nine by terrorist groups to be exploited as a child soldier. Mashpee says that he and many other children were infected with drugs by these groups to lose the control of their determination and spirit doing murder and other acts of violence.

Afghanistan, as one of the largest producers of opium in the world, is a high-risk area for children. There are reports on taking advantage of children in order to do drug trafficking, especially in the borders and examples of child addiction in this country have been recorded. According to released reports, in recent years with the support of international organizations the first rehabilitation center for addicted-child victims in this country have been stablished as a pilot study. This reflects the importance and magnitude of the issue and its need to be addressed.

It is worth noting that the huge rate of immigration of refugees to European countries in recent years can transmit the severity of mentioned issue from the Middle East to Europe. For example, IAPSRS recently have seen the remarkable migration of some Afghan families who were involved with substance dependency issues to European countries. If the age of drug consumption in these families, as in the noticed countries affected by the crisis, is declined we would see a growth in the number of addicted-child victims soon in European states which are the destinations of immigrants. Therefore, this issue requires the attention of the council to human rights issues arising from child addiction around the world with the aim of reducing the rate of drug consumption by innocent children.

Furthermore, the Islamic Republic of Iran with common land boarders to Afghanistan has always been considered as a transit route for drug trafficking, by the traffickers. This issue has led to make anti-drug activities become a complex and costly process in Iran. Although, positive steps in fighting against drug trafficking and the issue of consumption

have been conducted by the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran; drug traffickers are continuing their ruthless acts potently in the country. Extensive dimensions of the issue demonstrate the inability of the government in tackling with the struggle, thoroughly. IAPSRS NGO in its field researches in the past year and a half alongside with its relief actions in supporting children in the marginalized areas of the country has been encountered with 135 addicted-child victims including Afghan refugee children and children of socially disadvantaged Iranian families. Though, the government has given promises to NGOs for planning to support these children; unfortunately, still no standard supporting centers to protect rehabilitation of these children benefiting the last knowledge and expertise of the world have been stablished. It seems, the growing number of detected addicted-child victims in recent years esteems from some main reasons, especially the recent attention of the active drug mafia in Iran to the market aimed at children.
In that children usually are trustful by the community and they can easily arouse sympathy, drug traffickers misuse them simply to aid their distribution networks; and no one, even the police, casts doubt on them. These victims recruited in the distribution networks are low-income reliable workers in comparison to adults for the traffickers. The painful consequence that must be noted is the fact that child addiction will destroy the determination of the future generations affected. The outcome of the issue not only in national scale but also in regional and international scales would indicate ruining effects. Therefore, the cessation of child addiction phenomenon and rehabilitation and integration of even one addicted-child victim to the society should be become one of the most important human right mandates of the international community and the council.

In this regard:

1- It is recommended a special reporter on the impacts of drug trafficking and addiction on human rights of children affected or under affection be appointed by the council. The results of the reports by the SR would be utilized for planning serious pervasive struggles with the issue worldwide.
2- The states in hazardous addiction-prone zones should be called by the council to establish special supportive rehabilitation centers for addicted children and the ones who are at high-risk of addiction. International specialized standards for rehabilitation and integration of the target group to the society should be implemented by experts and followed in the mentioned centers under the supervision of pertinent international bodies and NGOs.
3- Due to incompetent supportive laws defending the rights of children got addicted or under the threat of addiction in some states, the council should stress legislation on child custody deprivation laws for those who are at risk of drug consumption because of their irresponsible parents and high-risk their behaviors.
4- Because, child addiction is not only a regional conflict for some states but a universal issue threatens human beings generations, the council should call on the states of the world to design and add some high quality protective life skill trainings to school schedules in different educational levels. It is a significant action has to be carried out first by the states that have high rates of consumption or are located on the main drug transit routes.

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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

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Please recycle

The role of NGOs to draw a realistic prioritized perspective of the human rights of vulnerable groups, particularly children

When it comes to studying the human rights issues and dealing with violations around the world, target groups are being selected to be defended by defenders through various investigation methods; however, in some circumstances the determination methods to choose vulnerable communities from the view point of human rights do not consider justice fairly. In such a manner that, some particular issues or groups are being under the meticulous contemplation of the special reporters or the mass media; meanwhile, in the same geographical area some other defenseless parties are getting disregarded or paid less attention. For instance, when the human rights situation in states is reviewing, political prisoners issues are usually highlighted in the reports; but the violations of children's rights are less under considerations. Even at the time these subjects are under examination, pertinent bodies do not place emphasis on them as much as the high political controversial issues. The question is whether this ignorance is a deliberate one or not? If this is not deliberately, the mechanisms of prioritizing the process of selecting and reviewing human rights issues should be revised to lessen the injustice.

To illustrate the mentioned idea, we can compare two target groups of the human rights defenders, political prisoners and socially disadvantaged children. Mainly, no one opposes defending human rights of political prisoners. But, we think the two target groups are not at the same priority to come under the same level of supervision by defenders. The difference between a political prisoner and a socially disadvantaged child is that the former one has been well aware of the hardships of his or her choice; however, the child had no rights to choose his or her plights. The prisoner has chosen a way with respect to some objectives and ideals, but the child we are talking about was born in an affliction. The child was not aware of the plights has to be faced with. Moreover, it is been observed that some political prisoners in their tough conditions in the prison, attempted not to get affected by the situation and improved themselves to combat their ideals. Today in some states under review of human rights defenders, we witness both target groups; one is under widespread media coverage; but in the same geographical area, defending the human rights of the other party – innocent children - has left behind.

Nowadays, in some states we witness some innocent children have lost their primitive rights of living including the right of having food, water, cloths, shelter, education, happiness and playing. Children whom their rights are being trampled in the prison of loneliness and marginalization every day; and less defenders are talking about their sounds to be heard. The issue is especially observable in undeveloped and developing countries. The most important reason that the mentioned children are living in such severity is geographical force. Moreover, social conflicts such as the family conditions these children are born in are another influential issue.

Besides, from the personal point of view, human rights violations have physical and spiritual consequences on the people. The sprit and body of the aforementioned children are forced to be suffered every day. In another point of view, it can be stated that these children - child labor, addicted children, children forced to work in unethical businesses and child soldiers - who are obliged to live in some tragic conditions from the early ages, are the everlasting captive prisoners of the Guantanamo jail of the history of human beings.

Appointed children are usually deprived of secure environment, affection, emotional supports and psychological defense mechanisms. There are cases in which parents are the first enemy of suffering children; so, they are being exploited for doing laboring from childhood by their families and somehow have to do beggary. In worse conditions children are being sold hand by hand. Unfortunately, in some states civil laws do not support their conflicts thoroughly and effectively. It is obvious, when parents are the enemies of the child and the society does not have sufficient capacities to adjudicate on their rights, the child will lose its reliance to everyone and becomes an anti-social person. Such a person is the best choice for being recruited by extremists to act as social suppressors, extremist soldiers, or suicide bombers. It seems following the current vision upon disregarding and neglecting the issue by the international community, the extremism would always have its own entrants.

In this regard:

It is recommended, the special reporters and the council while investigating and reviewing human rights violations in a particular state, benefit from comments, Statistics and Information of NGOs active in the field and area to prioritize the vulnerable groups. They should not base their decisions only on governmental or individual reports.

Moreover, the decisions of the council in determination of target groups that require human rights protections should not be influenced by the mass media streams.